

November 6, 2007

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am a resident of Barrington, Illinois. My home, where my family and I have lived for twelve years, and my property abuts the railroad tracks that run through Barrington. I recently heard that Canadian National Railway Company had proposed a project that would bring at least 15 more trains per day down those tracks. This announcement alarmed me greatly. I became even more concerned when I heard that this estimate did not account for large increases expected in train traffic throughout the Chicago area over the next 20 years. The drastic increase in noise, traffic, safety concerns at rail crossings, etc. will affect my quality of life and the quality of the environment in my community.

Of great concern to me personally is the closeness of the train crossings to the community high school. I am father to one current student and a future student at that school and traffic is difficult enough in our community without adding the potential traffic stoppage that a long train can create. The community safety services are located on the east side of town, the high school on the west, and heaven forbid there would be an emergency at the school that could not be attended to in a timely manner due to a train blocking the roadway. Of course I am concerned about my property values declining due to the proximity of a busy train line in my backyard, as well as the quality of my life, but I know that that issue is inconsequential to the decision now facing you.

I have been informed that you are responsible for reviewing Canadian National Railway Company's proposal. I think that the effects I discussed above warrant serious consideration before you allow Canadian National to move forward. You hold the safety and well-being of not only my family, but that of an entire region in your hands. I trust that you and the rest of the Board will thoroughly review Canadian National's proposal for any and all effects on the environment and affected communities. Please do not approve this proposal until you are certain our children's safety will not suffer. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard R. Russell DDS". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "RRS" clearly visible at the end.